

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

4 HOUSE BILL 3276

By: Baker and **McBride** of the
House

5
6 and

7 **Coleman** of the Senate

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10 AS INTRODUCED

11 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
12 Section 6-187, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 220,
13 O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 6-187),
14 which relates to teacher certification; authorizing
15 exemption from subject area examination; and
16 providing an effective date.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-187, as
19 amended by Section 4, Chapter 220, O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2023,
20 Section 6-187), is amended to read as follows:

21 Section 6-187. A. Prior to July 1, 2014, a competency
22 examination shall be adopted by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
23 Preparation and beginning July 1, 2014, a competency examination
24 shall be adopted by the Commission for Educational Quality and

1 Accountability for the professional education and various subject
2 areas and grade levels for purposes of ensuring academic achievement
3 and competency of each teacher candidate or teacher in the subject
4 area the person is seeking certification to teach which shall also
5 include certification as an administrator, as prescribed by the
6 State Board of Education.

7 The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section,
8 shall promulgate rules and procedures to guarantee the
9 confidentiality of examinations.

10 B. No teacher candidate shall be eligible for certification
11 until successfully completing the competency examination except
12 those candidates who make application to the State Board and meet
13 the criteria for the alternative placement program pursuant to
14 Section 6-122.3 of this title. Certification shall be limited to
15 areas of approval in which the certified teacher has successfully
16 completed the examination. Subject to the provisions of subsection
17 C of this section, testing for certification for subjects in which a
18 teacher candidate or teacher is seeking a minor teaching assignment
19 or an endorsement to teach shall be limited to the specific subject
20 area test.

21 A teacher candidate or teacher may take the professional
22 education or subject area portions of the examination subject to any
23 limit imposed by the Commission.

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1 C. 1. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, a
2 teacher may be certified in as many areas as the teacher meets the
3 necessary requirements provided by law and has successfully
4 completed the subject area portion of the examination.

5 2. Except as otherwise provided for in this paragraph,
6 certification in early childhood, elementary, or special education
7 shall require completion of an appropriate teacher education program
8 approved by the Commission.

9 Any teacher who is certified to teach elementary education may
10 be certified in early childhood education upon meeting the
11 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
12 appropriate subject area portion of the examination. Any teacher
13 who is certified to teach early childhood education may be certified
14 in elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in
15 law and successful completion of the appropriate subject area
16 portion of the examination. Any special education teacher who
17 becomes certified to teach through completion of an accredited
18 teacher preparation program may be certified in early childhood or
19 elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in law
20 and successful completion of the appropriate subject portion of the
21 examination. Any teacher who becomes certified to teach through
22 completion of an accredited teacher preparation program or becomes
23 alternatively certified to teach through the Troops to Teachers
24 program may be certified in special education upon meeting the

1 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
2 appropriate subject area portion of the examination. Any special
3 education teacher who has not completed a Commission-approved
4 teacher education program in elementary education or early childhood
5 education but who has successfully completed the subject area
6 portion of the examination may be certified in elementary education
7 or early childhood education for the purpose of providing direct
8 instruction and serving as the teacher of record for grading
9 purposes in special education settings only.

10 D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at
11 least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the
12 Commission.

13 E. If a teacher candidate or teacher is a non-native-English
14 speaker, the Commission shall offer the subject area competency
15 examination in the native language of the teacher candidate or
16 teacher only if the teacher candidate or teacher is employed or has
17 been offered employment by a school district as a teacher in a
18 foreign language immersion program offered by the school district.
19 If a non-native-English speaker who has received certification in a
20 subject area after taking the subject area competency examination in
21 the native language of the speaker seeks to add a certification area
22 in the future and that person is no longer employed as a teacher in
23 a foreign language immersion program, the examination for the
24 additional certification area shall be taken in English. The State

1 Board of Education shall issue a restricted license or certificate
2 to any teacher who has completed a subject area competency
3 examination in the native language of the teacher as provided for in
4 this subsection restricting the teacher to teaching only in a
5 foreign language immersion program.

6 F. 1. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
7 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, may grant an
8 exception to the requirement to complete a subject area examination
9 for initial certification in a field which does not require an
10 advanced degree if the candidate has an advanced degree in a subject
11 that is substantially comparable to the content assessed on a
12 subject area examination. The advanced degree shall be from an
13 institution accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency
14 which is recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department
15 of Education. The Commission shall provide the Board with the
16 necessary information to determine comparability.

17 2. The State Board of Career and Technology Education may grant
18 an exception to the requirement to complete a subject area
19 examination for initial certification in a field which does not
20 require an advanced degree if the candidate has industry-recognized
21 credentials and industry work experience in a subject that is
22 substantially comparable to the content assessed on a subject area
23 examination.
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1 G. 1. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall
2 restrict the right of the State Board of Education to issue an
3 emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. Provided, however,
4 prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the district
5 shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a
6 provisional or standard certificate. In the event a district is
7 unable to hire an individual meeting this criteria, the district
8 shall document efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or
9 standard certificate in another curricular area with academic
10 preparation in the field of need. Only after these alternatives
11 have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to employ an
12 individual meeting minimum standards ~~as~~ established by the State
13 Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

14 2. The State Board of Education may renew the emergency or
15 provisional certificate of an individual who has been employed by a
16 school district board of education for at least two (2) years if the
17 following criteria are met:

18 a. the individual has been granted an emergency or
19 provisional certificate pursuant to paragraph 1 of
20 this subsection for two (2) years,

21 b. the individual has not successfully completed the
22 competency examinations required by this section,
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- 1 c. the individual submits a portfolio of his or her work
2 to the State Board of Education, which shall include
3 evidence of progress toward standard certification,
4 d. the employing school district board of education
5 agrees to renew the individual's contract to teach for
6 the ensuing fiscal year, and
7 e. the superintendent of the employing school district
8 submits to the State Board of Education the reason the
9 emergency or provisional certificate should be renewed
10 and provides evidence of the district's inability to
11 hire a teacher who holds a standard certificate.

12 3. Individuals employed by a school district under an emergency
13 or provisional certificate shall not be considered career teachers
14 and therefore not entitled to the protections of the Teacher Due
15 Process Act of 1990.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.
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18 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 02/27/2024
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